

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB, IN

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN EXPRESS CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG BASED INDIAN EXPRESS CORRESPONDENT, B. K. TIWARI, (WHO IS LONG TIME ACQUAINTANCE OF PRINCE SIHANOUK) RECENTLY REQUESTED CABLE INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK IN PEKING. SIHANOUK AGREED AND TIWARI ON APRIL 16 RECEIVED BY CABLE FIRST SET OF ANSWERS BY SIHANOUK. TIWARI PASSED SIHANOUK'S CABLE APRIL 17 TO US CONGENOFF AND IN VIEW OF CURRENT CAMBODIAN SITUATION, WE ARE REPORTING ROUGH TRANSLATION OF ITS FRENCH TEXT IN FULL:

BEGIN TRANSLATION:

BELOW ARE MY RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS YOU ASKED ME:

Q. #1. THE US CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
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THE SO-CALLED KHNER REPUBLIC. THE EMBASSY OF THIS SO-CALLED

REPUBLIC CONTINUES TO FUNCTION OFFICIALLY IN WASHINGTON. ON THE OTHER HAND, SINCE THE AMERICAN EVACUATION OF PHNOM PEHN, THE AIRLIFT OR PARACHUTING OF ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS TO THE ARMY OF PHNOM PENH HAS CEASED, WE HOPE THAT THIS CESSATION IS FOREVER. IF NOT, THE US AND THE GRUNK CANNOT REALIZE A RAPID RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THEM.

GRUNK STILL CONSIDERS AS ALWAYS CHINA AS ITS BEST FRIEND. SINCE THE DAY AFTER THE COUP, CHINA HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE AID AND ASSISTANCE TO THE GRUNK GOVERNMENT IN EXILE AND SIHANOUK. IN SPITE OF WIND, RAIN AND STORMS, CHINA HAS DONE EVERYTHING TO AID FUNG, GRUNK, SIHANOUK TO TRIUMPH AT ALL LEVELS. WE CAN NEVER FORGET THAT. IN ADDITION CHINA HAS PROMISED TO GIVE US WITHOUT CONDITIONS AID OF ALL KINDS FOR A RAPID AND SPECTACULAR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR CAMBODIA WHICH HAS BEEN RAVAGED AND RUINED DURING 5 YEARS OF WAR. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SVIET UNION ARE ONCE AGAIN GOOD, SINCE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SEEING THE LIGHT OF OUR IRRESTIBLE SUCCESS IN THE MILITARY ARENA, DECIDED LAST MONTH TO CUT OFF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE PHNOM PENH QUISLINGS. WE WERE VERY NEARLY WOUNDED BY THE ACTIONS OF THIS BIG MARXIST-LENINIST COUNTRY WHICH IS OFFICIALLY ANTI-IMPERIALIST BUT WHICH JUDGED IT NECESSARY TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH THE SUPER TRAITOR, FASCIST, PRO-AMERICAN LON NOL UNTIL HIS FLIGHT FROM CAMBODIA. TIME WILL PERHAPS HEAL THE WOUNDS BUT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION CAN ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY ATTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF AFFECTION AND CONFIDENCE AS OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

CONCERNING MY RELATIONS WITH THE KHMER ROUGE, I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT THE KHMER ROUGE LEADERS HAVE TOLD ME. ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS BY MR. KHIEU SAMPHAN, HOU YOUN, HOU NIM, IENG SARY, ETC., THE KHMER ROUGE CONSIDER ME AS A PURE PATRIOT AND ALWAYS CONSIDER ME AS CHIEF OF STATE OF CAMBODIA AND THE PRESIDENT OF FUNK, WHICH WILL BE IT TOTAL THE UNIQUE PART OF LIBERATED CAMBODIA. THESE LEADERS HAVE ASKED ME TO BE CHIEF OF STATE FOR LIFE AND TO STAY UNTIL MY DEATH THE SYMBOL OF NATIONAL UNION. CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES OF THE QUOTE FREE WORLD UNQUOTE PREDICT THAT THERE WILL BE HARSH CLASHES BETWEEN SIHANOUK THE NATIONALIST AND THE KHMER ROUGE AND THAT THE KHMER ROUGE, ONCE THE ABSOLUTE VICTORS IN PHNOM PENH, WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THROW OUT QUOTE QUICKLY UNQUOTE SIHANOUK. EVEN IF SUCH A PREDICTION, WHICH IS WISHFUL THINKING ON THE PART OF THE QUOTE FREE WORLD, UNQUOTE BECOMES TRUE IN THE FUTURE, I WILL NOT COMPLAIN BECAUSE I HAVE NOT COLLABORATED WITH THE KHMER ROUGE TO SERVE MY PERSONAL INTERESTS BUT UNIQUELY FOR PATRIOTIC REASONS TO ATTAIN A REGIME WHICH WOULD BE NON-CORRUPT AND CAPABLE OF SAFEGUARDING INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

THE KHMER ROUGE ARE PERHAPS COMMUNISTS EVEN THOUGH THEY AFFIRM THAT THEY ARE NOT COMMUNISTS BUT THEY ARE INDUBITABLY PURE PATRIOTS WHO WANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR PATRIOTISM IN A TOTAL INDEPENDENCE AND THEY ALONE ARE CAPABLE OF GIVING CAMBODIA A REGIME WITHOUT CORRUPTION OR OTHER VICES. IF IT PLEASES THE KHMER ROUGE TO GET RID OF ME, I WILL NEVER BE DISCONTENTED WITH THEM OR DISCONTENTED WITH MYSELF.

Q. #2. THE STATE OF HEALTH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, MY MOTHER, IS NOTABLY BAD. MY MOTHER WISHES TO DIE IN CAMBODIA BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN TRANSPORT HER BY PLANE FROM PEKING TO SIEM REAP ANGKOR. I SAY SIEM REAP ANGKOR BECAUSE THE DAY AFTER THE LIBERATION OF PHNOM PENH, I WILL GO TO LIVE IN SIEM REAP ANGKOR AND NOT TO PHNOM PENH. I HOLD TOO MANY WARM MEMORIES OF PHNOM PENH, WARM AND SAD, AND ALSO I WANT TO LIVE FAR FROM PHNOM PENH TO STAY OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WHICH ARE THE SOLE COMPETENCE OF THE HEROIC AND WORTHY KHMER ROUGE. THEY HAVE ENTRUSTED ABOVE ALL TO CARRY OUT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES AND THE SUPREME REPRESENTATION OF CAMBODIA ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. I WILL RESIDE FOR THE MOST PART IN PEKING AND NOT IN CAMBODIA BECAUSE I HAVE CHOSEN FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL PEKING AS MY BASE OF INFLUENCE OF ACTIVITIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLANE AND OF MY POINT OF DEPARTURE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IT WILL BE FROM PEKING THAT I WILL TAKE THE PLANE TO REPRESENT MY COUNTRY IN THE UNITED NATIONS, IN AFRICA, IN ASIA, IN LATIN AMERICA AND IN EUROPE. I WILL CABLE YOU MY OTHER RESPONSES TOMORROW AND THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. FRATEERNALLY AND FRIENDLY YOURS, NORODOM SIHANOUK. END TRANSLATION.
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